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MILITARY INSTRUCTIONS.

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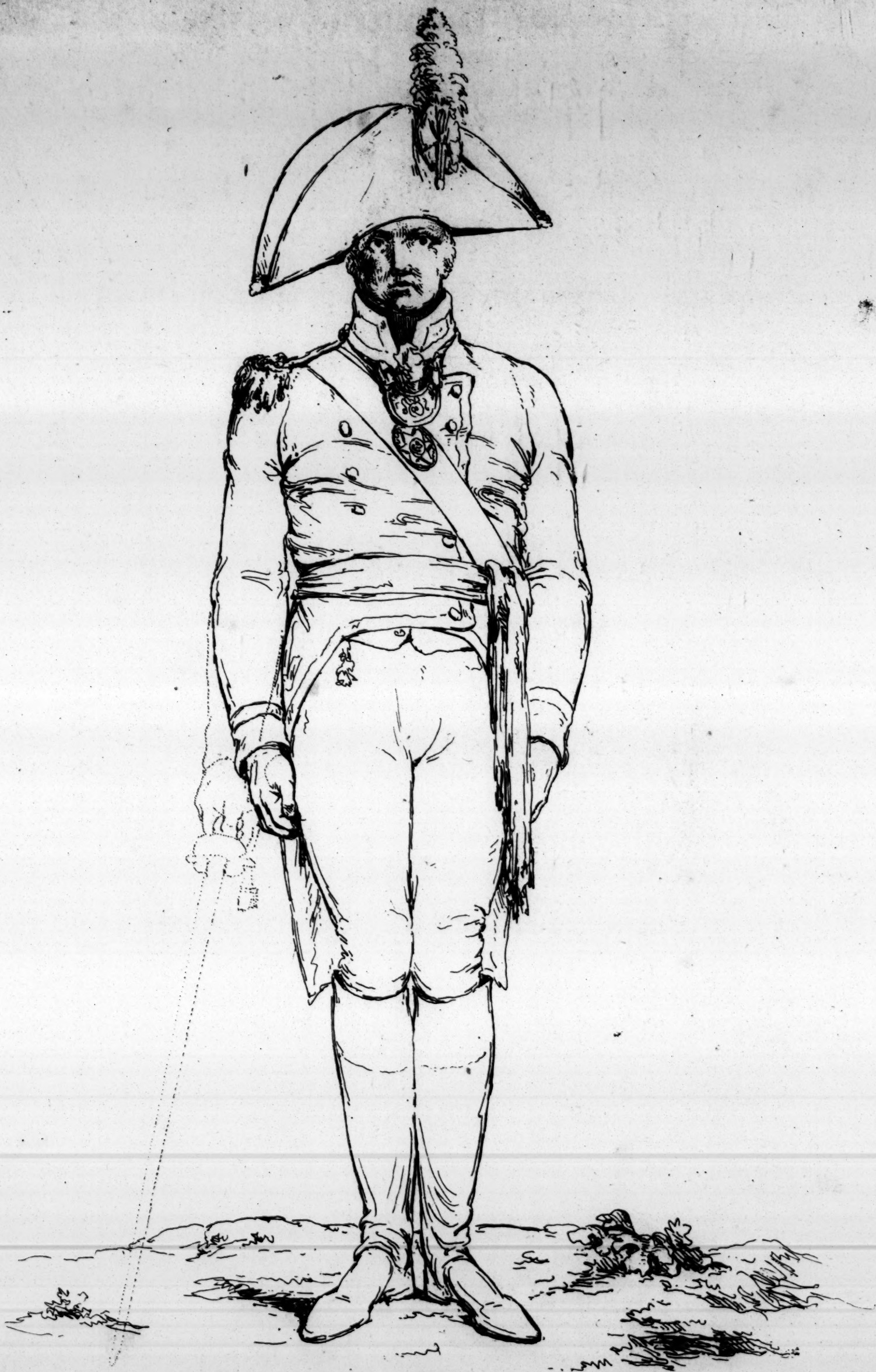








FRONTISPIECE.





MILITARY INSTRUCTIONS:  
INCLUDING  
EACH PARTICULAR MOTION  
OF THE  
MANUAL AND PLATOON EXERCISES;

ELUCIDATED  
WITH VERY MINUTE DRAWINGS

BY  
MR. R. K. PORTER;  
AND DEDICATED WITH PERMISSION TO  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
THE EARL OF HARRINGTON.

BY  
DAVID ROBERTS,  
LIEUTENANT AND ACTING ADJUTANT OF THE  
FIRST REGIMENT OF LIFE GUARDS.

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MDCCXCVIII.

1798







TO  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL  
THE  
EARL OF HARRINGTON.

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*MY LORD,*

IN being allowed the honour of dedicating this Work to your Lordship, I feel deeply sensible of this truth; that it could not be ushered into the world, under a sanction more flattering, or more likely to ensure the approbation of the Public.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient

And devoted Servant,

DAVID ROBERTS.



TO

THE HONORABLE

THE

EARL OF HARRINGTON

MY LORD

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the matter of the petition of the said John Smith, and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. H. [Signature]

And a kind remembrance

to all your family



## P R E F A C E.

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IN presenting this work to the Public, I must declare its utility; though I claim no further merit, than the pains which I have taken to pourtray in an accurate and simple manner, the various motions used with the firelock, in the manual and platoon exercises.

I have been careful most closely to conform to the precepts, as *described in the Regulation published by Authority, the 20th of April, 1792.*

I have also added some extra motions, which, though not found in the manual, are of considerable consequence.

In respect to those instructions which I offer to officers; I have drawn them from the *best authorities*:—and as uniformity is essential to every branch of military duty, the positions which I have designed for their rank, will be found as simple and easy, as they are true.

With pleasure, I avow myself much indebted to my friend Mr. R. K. Porter. He fortunately unites the powers of an artist, to his critical knowledge in military tactics; and has brought forward every exertion on his part, to render the drawings and etchings of this work, worthy the eye of a Martial Public.



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1917



# INSTRUCTIONS

FOR

PREPARING RECRUITS

FOR THE

*Manual Exercise and Ranks.*

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**W**HEN a recruit joins the regiment, he will be instructed as follows.

The first motion—is placing his right foot behind the left, two inches—his left knee bent—and his right thumb closed in his left hand.

On the word *Attention*—he will bring up his right foot even with the left, at the same time straighten his left knee, forcing it well back, and let his hands fall to each side with the thumb a little turned out, and the fingers rather bent inwards, so as not to appear stiff, forcing back the points of his shoulders and neck, raising his chest well up, and forward, so as to throw the weight of his body upon the balls of his feet, in order to obtain a firm position, which cannot be the case if the weight of the body is leaning backwards upon the heels.

B

For



For the first two or three days he must then be taught his facings, to the right, and right about ; left and left about.

*To Stand at ease*—with two motions.

*The first motion*—draw the right foot a little behind the left, at the same time, making his hands meet across his body, striking one with the other a smart pat with the palm ; the hands at this time on a line with the elbows—elbows close to the sides.

*The second motion*.—Bend the left knee, at the same time drop the hands, closed as they are, to the waistband of the breeches.

The recruit will be then taught to *Salute*.

*At one motion*—he will raise his right hand with an easy and graceful motion, to bring the right thumb the height of the right temple, and the fingers extended, in an horizontal line, along the bottom of the hat or cap, the elbow raised higher than the shoulder, the body quite erect, the head well raised, and eyes looking to the front.

N. B. Very particular attention is required from non-commissioned officers and privates, to adhere strictly to the foregoing instruction whenever they address an officer, or have to *pass him*, or when an officer *passes them*.\* This is the duty of every non-commissioned and private of every regiment, to *all* officers.

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\* Soldiers, also with arms, on passing an officer or passed by any officer, will immediately carry arms until the officer is passed ; this may be done whilst in motion.



*Facings.*

*Right, Face.*

AT the word *Face*, turn the body upon the left heel to the right;—observe, not to sink or bend the knee, but keep the body erect and steady.

*Right about, Face.*

At the word *Face*, drop the right foot back three inches, the ball of the foot opposite to the left heel; then, with a stiff knee, turn the body well round to the rear by the right, on the heels: Next motion—bring your right foot back to its proper place.

*Left, Face.*

As in *Right Face*, only turning on the right heel.

*Left about, Face.*

Advance the right foot, and bring the heel up to the ball of the left foot, turn round on both heels, knees straight, to the rear by the left: Next motion—bring up the right foot to its proper position.

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HAVING been perfected in the preceding positions, the recruit will be taught to *march* in *quick time*—or 120 paces in a minute.



The shoulders must be carefully pressed back; the hands hang by the side, but never to appear in front of the thigh, rather behind; the knee that supports the body to be well forced back, which will keep the body steady and preserve the height.

Prior to the recruit being put to *slow* time, or 75 paces in the minute, he will be exercised with *dumb-bells* as follows: the dumb-bells being placed one on each side of him, and himself in an erect, steady posture—on the word,

*Raise Bells*—he will take one in each hand, and by a gentle motion, raise them as high as his arm will suffer him above his head; then gradually sinking them with stretched arm, as much behind him as possible, he will form the circle with them as described in Fig. 1. Plate II. making the circle complete, by causing the backs of his hands to meet behind his body; this will be repeated, according to his strength, five or six times.

*Extend Bells.*

The bells being raised to the shoulder, they will be forced forwards, keeping the same height, then brought back in the same manner; this will throw the chest forward, and force back the neck and shoulders—this must be frequently repeated.

*Swing bells.*

The top part of the bells to be made meet together in front, the height of the breast; then forced backwards with an extended arm, be made to touch behind: in doing this, the palm of the hands must be uppermost, and the elbows well down: this circle must be repeated 14 or 15 times:—Time, the circle performed, in two seconds.

*Ground*



*Ground Bells.*

The recruit will let fall the bells by his sides, and remain steady and firm.

The recruit will now be taught to march in *ordinary time*, and it will be well to impress on his mind, that the word *march*, always implies *ordinary time* when given separately.

*Ordinary time.*

The recruit sliding his hands behind him, gradually forces them back (the palms of the hands next the body) until they meet, and then crossing them, with his right he takes a firm hold of the left, then forcing his arms well downwards, straightens them and brings his elbows as near together as possible, raising his hands a little off from his back, which draws back the points of his shoulders and opens his chest, see Fig. 2. Plate II. In this position, he will advance, bringing his breast well forward, almost to cover the advancing foot, the toe must be well pointed, and turned out, then brought to the ground, flat and firm, which if he keeps his body back, he will not be able to do marching in ordinary time. The recruit must be particular to keep the knee also that supports the body perfectly straight.

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EVERY recruit should be practised at the balance-step, frequently, before the fire-lock is put into his hand.

*Left leg, swing.*

The body being perfectly steady, the left leg raised from the  
ground



ground is presented to the front, loosening the instep joint, raising the foot several times the height of the right knee, which being as before described, straight, and firmly forced backwards, the body must be steady. By a bend of the left knee, the leg will be carried behind, extended well, and raised up a little; then once more brought to the front, as in the first position.

*As you were.*

The foot will be brought to the ground, on a line with the right leg; the same process will be pursued with the right leg.

THE recruit should now be taught to *shoulder* his firelock, and also the two first motions of the *present*, to enable him to practise the following exercise, being placed with shouldered arms.

*Sling Arms*—from the poise.

The firelock is raised with the right hand, over the head, the butt to the right, the muzzle to the left, the fore-finger close to the top swivel; at a signal, the firelock must be pressed downwards to the shoulder blade; but very great care must be taken to preserve it exactly steady, neither swerving to the right nor the left. In this posture the balance-step must be practised. Plate III.

*Raise arms.*

Raise the firelock above the head, with both hands.

*Poise arms.*

Letting go the left hand, bring the firelock down with the right hand to the poise, replacing the left hand.

*Shoulder*



*Shoulder Arms.*

Throw the firelock well in to the shoulder, and quit the right hand.

It will also be well for the recruit, to practise the following motion:

*To Shoulder smartly with one Hand.*

Drop the piece from the shoulder with the left hand, into the loading position; then smartly throw it up to the shoulder, using only the left hand.

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MUCH care must be taken to habituate men to perform their different duties with regularity; and to instil into their minds, the very great necessity there is for a soldier being strictly attentive, whilst performing any part of his duty: and the moment he falls into the ranks to take up his dressing, to fix himself firmly in his position, and watchfully wait, for any command his officer may give.

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*Position of the Soldier under Arms.*

THE equal squareness of the shoulders, and body, to the front, is the first and grand principle of the position of the soldier:—the heels must be in a line, and closed; the knees straight without stiffness; the toes turned out, so that the feet may form  
an



an angle of about 60 degrees ; the arms hang near the body, but not stiff ; the flat of the hand and little finger touching the thigh, and the thumbs as far back as the seams of the breeches ; the elbows and shoulders are to be kept back ; the belly rather drawn in, and the breast advanced, but without constraint ; the body to be upright, but inclining rather forwards, so that the weight of it may bear chiefly on the balls of the feet ; the head to be erect, and neither turned to the right, nor to the left ; the eyes alone will be glanced to the right.

Under arms, the firelock is to be placed in his left hand, against the shoulder ; his wrist to be a little turned out ; the thumb alone to appear in front ; the four fingers to be under the butt, and the left elbow to be rather bent inwards, so as not to be separated from the body, or to be more backward or forward than the right one ; the firelock must rest full on the hand, not on the end of the fingers ; and be carried in such manner as not to raise, advance, or keep back one shoulder more than the other ; the butt must therefore be forward, and as low as can be permitted without constraint ; the fore part a very little before the front of the thigh ; and the hind part of it pressed by the wrist against the thigh. It must be kept steady, and firm, before the hollow of the shoulder ; should it be drawn back, or carried too high, the one shoulder would be advanced, the other kept back, and the upper part of the body would be distorted, and not square with respect to the limbs.



*Manual Exercise.*

1st  
Order Arms,  
(3 motions.)

BRING the firelock to the trail in two motions as usual, seizing it at the first, at the lower loop, just above the swell: At the second, bring it down to the right side, the butt within two inches of the ground:— At the third, drop the butt on the ground, placing the muzzle against the hollow of the right shoulder, and the hand flat upon the sling.

Plate V.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

2d  
Fix Bayonets.

At the word *Fix*, place the thumb of the right hand, as quick as possible, behind the barrel, taking a gripe of the firelock:—as soon as the word of command is fully out, push the firelock a little forward, at the same time drawing out the bayonet with the left hand, and fixing it with the utmost celerity. The instant this is done, return, as quick as possible, to the *Order*, as above described, and stand perfectly steady. The bayonet must be seized back-handed, and well forced down, when in the act of being drawn out.

Plate VI.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

C

Shoulder



Plate IV.

3d  
*Shoulder Arms.*

As soon as the word *Shoulder* is given, take a gripe of the firelock with the right hand, as in fixing bayonets; and at the last word, *Arms*, the firelock must be thrown with the right hand, in one motion, and with as little appearance of effort as possible, into its proper position on the left shoulder;—the hand crosses the body in so doing, but must instantly be withdrawn.

Plate VI.  
Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

4th  
*Present Arms,*  
(3 motions.)

Plate VII.

1st. Seize the firelock with the right hand, under the guard, turning the lock to the front, but without moving it from the shoulder.

2d. Raise the firelock to the *Poise* with the right hand, striking it smartly with the left, the fingers extended along the sling, the wrist upon the guard, and the point of the left thumb of equal height with the eyes.

3d. Bring down the firelock with a quick motion, as low as the right hand will admit without constraint, turning the sling to the front, drawing back the right foot at the same instant, so that the hollow of it may touch the left heel. The firelock in this position is to be totally supported in the left hand; the butt perpendicular down the center of the left thigh; the body to rest entirely on the left foot; both knees to be straight.

5th



5th  
*Shoulder Arms,*  
 (2 motions.)

1st. By a turn of the right wrist, bring the firelock to its proper position on the shoulder, the left hand grasping the butt. 2d. Quit the right hand, bringing it briskly down to its place by the side. Plate IV. Plate VIII. Fig. 1.

6th  
*Charge Bayonets,*  
 (2 motions.)

1st. At one motion throw the firelock from the shoulder across the body, to the diagonal position in Fig. I. Plate VIII. which is known in many regiments by the name of *Port Arms* or *Prepare to Charge*, in which the lock is to be turned to the front, and at the height of the breast; the muzzle slanting upwards, so that the barrel may cross opposite the point of the left shoulder, with the butt proportionally depressed; the right hand grasps the small of the butt, and the left holds the piece at the swell, close to the lower pipe, the thumbs of both hands pointing towards the muzzle. Plate VIII. Fig. 1.  
 2d. Make a half face to the right, and bring down the firelock to nearly a horizontal position, with the muzzle inclining a little upwards, and the right wrist resting against the hip. Fig. 2.

N. B. The first motion of the *Charge* is the position which the soldier will, either from the shoulder, or after firing, take, in order to advance on an enemy, whom it is intended to attack with fixed bayonets; and the word of command for that purpose



is "*Prepare to Charge.*" The second position of the charge is that which the front rank takes, when arrived at a few yards distance only, from the body to be attacked. The first motion of the *charge* is also that which sentries are to take, when challenging any persons who approach their post.

7th  
*Shoulder arms.*  
(2 motions.)

1st—Face to the front, and throw up the piece into its position on the shoulder by a turn of the right wrist, instantly grasping the butt, as before described, with the left hand.  
2d—Quit the firelock briskly with the right hand, bringing it to its proper place by the side.

Plate IX.

Fig. 1.

*Support Arms.*

Fig. 2.

The men must be taught likewise to *support arms* at *three* motions, throwing the first and second nearly into one : At the first motion, they seize the small of the butt, under the lock, with the right hand, bringing the butt in front of the groin, and keeping the lock somewhat turned out ; at the second, they bring the left arm under the cock ; at the third, they quit the right hand. In *carrying arms* from the *support*, the motions are exactly reversed.

In marching any distance, or in standing at ease when *supported*, the men are allowed to bring their right hands across the body,



body, to the small of the butt, which latter must, in that case, be thrown still more forward; the fingers of the left hand being uppermost, must be placed between the body and the right elbow, Plate 13. The right hands are to be instantly removed when the division *halts*, or is ordered to *dress by the right*. When standing at ease with supported arms, the left knee is to be bent, and right foot drawn back six inches. At the word, *Attention*, the right hand removed, the butt thrown back, and the right leg brought up; left knee straightened.

*Unfix Bayonets.*

At the word *Unfix*, flip the right thumb in rear of the barrel:—On the word *Bayonets*, with the right hand push the firelock forward, so as to see the muzzle without inclining the head; with the left hand, seize the socket of the bayonet with the thumb and fore finger; disengage the bayonet from the firelock, and holding it between the finger and thumb, (as in Plate IX. No. 3.) let it fall by forming a circle, (as in Fig. 4,) it will by that motion meet the palm of the hand; and being grasped by the other fingers, the point will be in a positive direction to the mouth of the bayonet scabbard, and easily returned; the firelock thrown back to the right shoulder, and the left hand well down to the left side.\*

Plate IX.

Fig. 3:

Fig. 4.

\* In the above method of returning the bayonet, the men may be allowed to seize the belt, with the right finger and thumb, below the breast-plate, in order to steady it.



Plate X.  
Fig. 1.

*Secure Arms.*

Fig. 2.

*Shoulder Arms*

Plate X.

Fig. 4.

*Ground Arms.*

Bring the right hand smartly across the body, so as to grasp the firelock below the lock; then with the left hand catch the firelock near the swell, and at the same time sink the muzzle till the butt becomes even with the back of the shoulder; the lock will be received, and covered by the inside of the bend of the arm.

The muzzle will be flung up to the shoulder, the right hand will grasp the small of the stock as in the first motion (in order to steady it); the left hand will seize the firelock at the butt, and the right hand be then withdrawn.

From the *Order*, turn the firelock with the right hand, so much to the right as to have the lock quite behind; and at the same time disengage the right foot, and make a half face to the right, so that the flat of the butt shall be opposite the ball of the great toe:— Then advance the left foot, and extend the firelock easily on the ground, which is done by sinking on your right knee, which should cover the lock, the left leg perpendicular, and the left hand resting on the calf. The  
firelock



firelock is to be laid on the ground, exactly straight from the right foot; the body as nearly erect as possible, the head up, and the eyes to the flugel man. With a spring, which will be much aided by the left hand having grasped the calf of the left leg, the body is to be raised to the perpendicular position, hands down; and the right foot disengaging from the butt of the firelock resumes its proper position, as the body returns with a half face to the front.

*Take up Arms.*

Half face to the right—the right foot placed behind the butt, the body is once more sunk as in Plate XI. the right hand seizing the piece at the swell; the left, the calf of the left leg:—the body is again raised to the erect position, excepting that the right hand, during the time the body is rising, flips gradually to the muzzle of the firelock, as in Fig. 3. Disengage the right foot, and bring the body square to the front, the right hand grasping the muzzle as in Fig. 4.

Plate XI.

Plate X.  
Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

*Ease Arms.*

The right hand is smartly dropped to its length, as in ordered arms.

Plate V.  
Fig. 3.

*Trail*



*Trail Arms.* { The firelock is lifted from the *order*, two inches from the ground, *exactly* in the same position.

*Recover from Order or Trail.* { Fling the firelock with the right hand up to the left shoulder, catching it with the left hand about six inches above the guard, and with the right close below the guard; the piece perpendicular, and the sling to the front; elbows close as possible to the body.

Plate XXI.  
Fig. 1.

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### *Regular System of Inspection of all Guards, Parties, &c.*

EACH soldier falls in with his arms shouldered, touching his right hand man easy, and dressing well to the right; when the right hand man finds his left perfectly steady, he orders his arms, and stands at ease, and so on from right to left of the rank, singly, man by man, taking care to keep the left foot firm on the ground, in order to remain in dress. When the *Inspecting Officer* gives the word *Attention*, they will spring smartly up; then the line will be perfectly dressed, and every man at his proper distance. The above instructions to be strictly attended to at all parades.

Words



|                                        |                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Words of Command, for inspecting Arms. | <i>Fix Bayonets.</i>   | Plate VI.              |
|                                        | <i>Shoulder Arms.</i>  | Plate IV.              |
|                                        | <i>Open Pans.</i>      | Plate XII.<br>Fig. 1.  |
|                                        | <i>Port Arms.</i>      | Plate VIII.<br>Fig. 1. |
|                                        | <i>Shoulder Arms.</i>  | Plate IV.              |
|                                        | <i>Shut Pans.</i>      | Plate XII.<br>Fig. 2.  |
|                                        | <i>Order Arms.</i>     | Plate V.               |
|                                        | <i>Draw Ramrods.</i>   | Plate XII.<br>Fig. 3.  |
|                                        | <i>Return Ramrods.</i> | Plate XII.<br>Fig. 4.  |
|                                        | <i>Order Arms.</i>     | Plate V.<br>Fig. 2.    |
|                                        | <i>Ease Arms.</i>      | Plate V.<br>Fig. 3.    |
|                                        | <i>Return Bayonet.</i> | Plate IX.              |
|                                        | <i>Stand at ease.</i>  | Fig. 3 and 4.          |

*Fix Bayonets.* { As in the Manual Exercife.

*Shoulder Arms.* { As in the Manual Exercife.

*Open Pans.* { Plate XII. No. 1.—Bring the right hand smart across the body, the thumb under the steel, the fingers over it; by a signal from the corporal advanced, the pan is thrown open : The third motion—the right hand brought smart down by the side.



Plate VIII.  
Fig. 1.

*Port Arms.*

{ Is to be as the first motion of *Charge Bayonet*, in the Manual Exercise; the inspecting officer will then examine, very minutely, the lock, brasses, and all parts of the firelock below the top fwivel.

Plate IV.

*Shoulder Arms.*

{ As in the Manual Exercise.

Plate XII.  
Fig. 2.

*Shut Pans.*

{ The right hand brought quick across the body, with the fingers extended above the steel; at the signal, a smart pressure of the hand will shut the pan: the next signal, the right hand is brought quick down to the side.

Plate V.

*Order Arms.*

{ As in the Manual Exercise.

*Draw Ramrods.*

{ 1st—The thumb behind, the same as previous to the shouldering. 2d. Spring the firelock quick out of the right hand into the left, seizing the top of the ramrod with the thumb and fingers of the right hand—and make a half face to the left at the same time. 3d. Bring the ramrod half way out, and seize it back-handed. 4th. Spring it quite out, entering the thick end of the ramrod into the muzzle. 5th. The hand dropt quick to the muzzle. 6th. Seize the  
top



top of the ramrod with the thumb and finger.

7th. Each soldier will let his ramrod fall into the barrel, man by man, as the inspecting officer passes them from right to left. 8th.

Seize the top of the ramrod with the thumb and finger of the right hand, bringing it half way out with the back of the hand outwards: take it quite out, lay the small end of the ramrod on the right shoulder, the thick end to rest on the turn of the bayonet.

Plate XII.  
Fig. 3.

9th. The inspecting officer will examine the muzzle of the firelock, the bayonet, and the top of the ramrod, (in order to see if the barrel is clean in the inside) from left to right.

*Return Ramrods.*

10th. When the officer has passed the left hand man, he will raise the thick end of his ramrod upwards, pointing the small end in the loop, spring it quick down; seizing the top with the thumb and finger, bringing it quite home, the muzzle to the hollow of the left shoulder, and face smartly to the front.

Fig. 4.



*Order Arms.*

1<sup>st</sup>th. Bring the fingers of the right hand smartly round the muzzle, taking a full grasp of it about the swell. 2<sup>d</sup> motion—Bring it from the left side to the right, the left hand to remain straight by the side, the right hand to the muzzle; the butt to the ground, the outside of the right foot, and within the toe.

*Ease Arms.*

The right hand to drop smart upon the sling, with the arm extended, and the back of the hand to the front.



*Platoon Exercise.*

FRONT RANK STANDING.

*Prime and Load.*

1st—Bring the firelock down in one brisk motion to the priming position, the thumb of the right hand placed against the pan cover, or steel; the fingers clenched, and the elbow a little turned out, so that the wrist may be clear of the cock. The greatest care should be taken to keep the lock well forward, so that the head need not be at all turned to view it—only a cast of the eye downwards.

Plate XIV.  
Fig. 1.

2d—Open the pan, by throwing up the steel, with a strong motion of the thumb, forced by the right arm, turning the elbow in, and keeping the firelock steady in the left hand.

Fig. 2.

3d—Bring your hand round to the pouch, and draw out the cartridge.

Fig. 3.

The rest as above described, excepting, that in the quick loading, all the motions are to be done with as much dispatch as possible; the soldiers taking their time from the flugel man in front, for *casting about* and *shouldering* only.

*Priming*



*Priming Position.*

In firing three deep, the priming position for the front rank is the height of the waist-band of the breeches; for the center rank, about the middle of the stomach; and for the rear rank, close to the breast:—the firelock in all these positions, is to be kept perfectly horizontal.

Plate XIX.  
Fig. 1.

1st  
*Make Ready.*

{ As usual, bringing the firelock to the *Re-*  
*cover*, and instantly cocking.

Plate XX.  
Fig. 1.

2d  
*Present.*

{ 1st—Slip the left hand along the sling as far as the swell of the firelock, and bring the piece down to the *Present*, stepping back about six inches to the rear with the right foot.

Fig. 2. and 3.

3d  
*Fire.*

{ After firing drop the firelock briskly to the *Priming Position*.  
2d—Half cock.

Plate XIV.  
Fig. 3.

4th  
*Handle Cartridge.*  
Fig. 4. and 5.

{ 1st—Draw the cartridge from the pouch.  
2d—Bring it to the mouth, holding it between the fore finger and thumb, and bite off the top of it.



5th  
*Prime.*

- 1st—Shake some powder into the pan.  
2d—Shut the pan with the three last fingers.  
3d—Seize the small of the butt with the above three fingers.

Plate XV.  
Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

6th  
*Load.*

- 1st—Face to the left on both heels, so that the right toe may point directly to the front, and the body be a very little faced to the left, bringing at the same time the firelock round to the left side without sinking it. It should, in this momentary position, be almost perpendicular, (having the muzzle only a small degree brought forward) and as soon as it is steady there, it must instantly be forced down within two inches of the ground, the butt nearly opposite the left heel, and the firelock itself somewhat sloped, and directly to the front; the right hand at the same instant catches the muzzle, in order to steady it.

Fig. 4.

Plate XVI.

- 2d—Shake the powder into the barrel, putting in after it the paper and ball.

Plate XVII.  
Fig. 1.

- 3d—Seize the top of the ramrod with the fore finger and thumb.

Fig. 2.

7th



Fig. 3:

7th

*Draw Ramrods.*

Fig. 4.

1st—Force the ramrod half out, and feize it back-handed exactly in the middle.

2d—Draw it entirely out, and turning it with the whole hand and arm well extended in front, put it one inch into the barrel.

Fig. 5.

8th

Fig. 6.

*Ram down Cartridge.*

1st—Push the ramrod down, holding it as before, exactly in the middle, until the hand touches the muzzle.

2d—Slip the fore finger and thumb to the upper end, without letting the ramrod fall further into the barrel.

3d—Push the cartridge well down to the bottom.

4th—Strike it two very quick strokes with the ramrod.

Plate XVII.  
Fig. 3.

9th

*Return Ramrods.*

1st—Draw the ramrod out, catching it back-handed.

2d—Draw it entirely out, turning it very briskly from you, with the arm extended, and put it into the loops, forcing it as quick as possible to the bottom; then face to the proper front, the finger and thumb of the right hand holding the ramrod, as in the position immediately previous to drawing it, and the butt raised two inches from the ground.

Plate XVIII.

10th



10th  
*Shoulder Arms.*

Strike the top of the muzzle smartly with the right hand, in order to fix the bayonet and ramrod more firmly, and at the same time throw it nimbly up, at one motion, to the shoulder.

N. B. Though the butts are not to come to the ground in casting about, as accidents might happen from it; yet they are permitted, while loading, to be so rested, but it must be done without noise, and in a manner imperceptible in the front.

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*The Position of each Rank in the Firings.*

FRONT RANK KNEELING.

*Make Ready.*

BRING the firelock briskly up to the *Recover*, catching it in the left hand, and without stopping, sink down with a quick motion upon the right knee, keeping the left foot fast; the butt end of the firelock, at the same moment, falling upon the ground; then cock, and instantly seize the cock and steel together in the right hand, holding the piece firm in the left, about the middle of that part which is between the lock and the swell of the

E

stock:



Plate XIX.  
Fig. 1. and 2

Plate XX.

*Present.*

*Fire.*

stock; the point of the thumb to be close to the swell, and pointing upwards. As the body is sinking, the right knee is to be thrown back, that the left leg may be right up and down; the right foot a little turned out; the body straight, and the head as much up, as if shouldered: the firelock must be upright, and the butt about four inches to the right of the inside of the left foot.

Bring the firelock down firmly to the *Present*, by sliding the left hand, to the full extent of the arm, along the sling, without letting the motion tell; the right hand at the same time springing up the butt, so high against the right shoulder, that the head may not be too much lowered in taking aim; the right cheek close to the butt; the left eye shut, and the middle finger of the right hand on the trigger; look along the barrel with the right eye, from the breech pin to the muzzle, and remain steady.

Pull the trigger strong with the middle finger; and as soon as fired, spring up nimbly upon the left leg, keeping the body erect, and the left foot fast; bringing the right heel to the hollow of the left; at the same instant,



stant, drop the firelock to the priming position, the height of the waistband of the breeches; *Half Cock; Handle Cartridge*, and go on with the loading motions, as before described.

Plate XX.  
Fig. 1, 2,  
and 3.

CENTER RANK.

*Make Ready.*

SPRING the firelock briskly to the *Recover*; as soon as the left hand seizes the firelock above the lock, raise the right elbow a little, placing the thumb of that hand upon the cock, with the fingers open on the plate of the lock, and then, as quick as possible, cock the piece, by dropping the elbow and forcing down the cock with the thumb, step at the same time with the right foot a moderate pace to the right, keeping the left fast; seize the small of the butt with the right hand. The piece must be held in this position perpendicular, and opposite the left side of the face, the butt close to the breast, but not pressed; the body straight, and full to the front, and the head erect.

Plate XXI.  
Fig. 1.

*Present.*

{ As in the foregoing explanation for the front rank.

Plate XX.

E 2

Pull



*Fire.*

Plate XX.

Pull the trigger strong with the middle finger, and as soon as fired, bring the firelock to the priming position, about the height of the stomach; the rest, as in explanation of *Priming* and *Loading*;—with this difference only, that the left foot is to be drawn up to the right, at the same time that the firelock is brought down to the priming position; and that immediately after the firelock is thrown up to the shoulder, the men spring to the left again, and cover their file leaders.

REAR RANK.

*Make Ready.*

RECOVER and cock, as before directed for the center rank; and as the firelock is brought to the *Recover*, step briskly to the right a full pace, at the same time placing the left heel about six inches before the point of the right foot. The body to be kept straight, and as square to the front as possible.

Plate XXI.  
Fig. 2.

*Present.*

As in directions for the center rank; only leaning well on the left foot.

*Fire.*



*Fire.*

As in directions for the center rank;—remembering only the difference of the priming position for this rank, as before described; after firing and shouldering, the men step as the center rank does.

Plate XX.

N. B. In firing with the front rank *standing*; that rank makes ready, &c. as specified in the article relative to the *Platoon Exercise*.

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### *Firing by Platoons.*

THE officers, instead of giving the words, *Platoon, Make Ready, Present, Fire*; are to pronounce the words short, as for instance, '*Toon, Ready, 'Psent, Fire*.

In firing by platoons or divisions, the officers commanding them are to step out one pace, on the close of the *Preparative*, and face to the left towards their men; they there stand perfectly steady till the last part of the *General*, when they step back again into their proper intervals, all at the same time. After a division has fired, the right hand man of it steps out one pace, in front of the officer, but still keeping his own proper front, and gives the time for *casting about* and *shouldering*; after which he falls back again into his place in the front rank.

The flugel man of a battalion is also to keep his front, in  
giving



giving the time of exercise. In firing by grand divisions, the center officer falls back, on the *Preparative*, into the fourth rank, and is replaced by the covering serjeant.

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*Pile or File Arms.*

THIS is done from the *Order, Front Rank to the Right about, Face*; at the same moment the center rank makes a quarter face to the left; throwing the firelock out of the right hand into the left, and springing the butt against the left heel, with the lock outwards. The rear rank brings the right hand to the muzzle of the firelock, and springs the butt against his right heel, with the lock to the rear. The files slope their arms, lock their ram-rods in each other, and so form the complete pile.

*Stand Clear Arms.*

The front rank step back one pace; the center one, and the rear two. If there are only two ranks file, the rear must *take open order*; the front to the right about, when they lock arms to the right alternately, viz. two fronts, one rear; and two rear, and one front.

To



*Unfile Arms.*

To *Stand to Arms*, each man grasps his piece with his left hand; at the word *Arms*, the front rank faces to the right about, and each man throws his firelock from his left hand into his right;—and so is again in order.

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*Instructions for Serjeants.*

THE serjeants carrying halberts, will shoulder their halbert on the right side, in a manner similar to that of shouldering the firelock on the left, letting the point of the staff rest between the two first fingers. They will order in three motions.

1st motion. Seize the halbert with the left hand opposite the point of the right shoulder.

2d motion. Raise the right hand to catch the halbert, about two inches above the left hand, keeping the elbow close to the side.

3d motion.—Sink the halbert to the ground, with the right hand; the left falling to its first position.

When the battalion shoulder, the serjeant will shoulder his halbert, the motion exactly the same as with the firelock, only on the right side,—in two motions.

1st



1st motion—On the word *Shoulder* take a grasp of the halbert with the right hand.

2d motion—Throw the halbert lightly to the right shoulder, catching it with the right hand.

When the battalion charge, the serjeants will *Charge Halberts*, in two motions.

Plate XXIV. 1st motion, as the first motion of the *Order*.

2d motion—Raise the right hand till the knuckles rest upon the rear of the right hip, the left hand will bring down the point of the halbert to about the height of the chin.

Serjeants remain at the *Shoulder* during the performance of the other parts of the exercise: there being the same number of motions for the *Shoulder*, *Order* and *Charge* with the halbert as with the firelock, the same time will be observed whilst performing those motions.



*Instructions for Officers.*

THE position of an officer is exactly the same as that described for the private. Officers must draw their swords on taking their posts in the ranks.

*Draw Swords.*

I have described the first position in Plate I. Having with the left hand seized the scabbard as near the top as the belt will admit; the sword must be raised perpendicular, so as to meet the right hand. The right hand, at the time the left seizes the scabbard, will be brought, with a quick motion, across the body, so as to clasp the hilt, if not with a full grasp, as near as possible to do it with ease, and the motion graceful.

Plate XXII.  
Fig. 1.

The next motion is to draw the sword swiftly out of the scabbard, and bring it to the recover. The right hand will draw the sword, and with a graceful motion raise the hilt in front of the face; the flat of the blade opposite to the nose, and the tip of the thumb on an equal height with the bottom of the chin.

Fig. 2.

F

If



Plate XXII.  
Fig. 3.

If the ranks are at *Close Order*, the officer will *slope his sword*; the right hand will be lowered with the sword, just so far on the right side as to admit of the hand keeping a firm grasp of the hilt; and being brought well square to the front, the blade will fall upon the right shoulder, where it will be held steady and firm.

Fig. 4.

When the ranks are at open order, the sword will be extended diagonally across the body, from the right side to the point of the left shoulder; the right arm being straightened perpendicularly down the right side, the left arm will be bent, so that the left hand may take the blade of the sword, edgeways, between the fingers and thumb, and be opposite to the point of the shoulder.

*In the Salute standing*, the sword is raised to the front of the face (as in the *recover*) when the general passes the next officer on the right; then, when the general or field officer has passed that officer nearest on the right, the right hand of the saluting officer will at first slowly move, but when near half the half circle is performed, he will smartly drop the sword, to point about twelve inches in the front of the toe; but as the sword will be brought down to the side, so that the guard will touch the seam of the breeches, the point is consequently held in a straight line, about three inches on the right of the right foot; the officer will then look to the front, and stand very steady. When the general has passed the saluting officer, he will recover his sword as in Fig. 2. Plate XXII. then drop it, as in Fig. 4.

*In marching in open ranks*, the sword is carried, as in Fig 3.

Plate



Plate XXII. In *saluting*, the officer must be careful to look direct at the officer *saluted*. He must by no means begin his salute, till the rear rank of the division in his front, are three paces past the general. The sword will then be recovered, as in Fig. 2. Plate XXII. beginning the first motion with the right leg, then waiting one step, and dropping the sword; with the right leg, exactly to the same position as when saluting standing; march three steps, with the point down; and at the fourth, which will be with the right leg, bring the sword up to the recover, wait one step, then with the right leg, bring it to Plate XXIII.

N. B. Much attention should be given to uniformity in the dress; and putting the hat properly on the head. And as by constant attention and practice, the soldier is accustomed to be extremely firm and steady in the ranks; it is therefore essentially the duty of an officer, to preserve the same strictness; and to let *precept* be supported by *example*.

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Before I conclude, I must observe to young officers, the bad effects of confining soldiers by imprisoning them in guard rooms, for small and trivial offences. The first and chief object, when a recruit is to be trained for the ranks, is to teach him regularity and method. His time should be so disposed and allotted, that every hour in the day should be employed: Cleaning himself, burnishing his arms and accoutrements, with the hours appointed

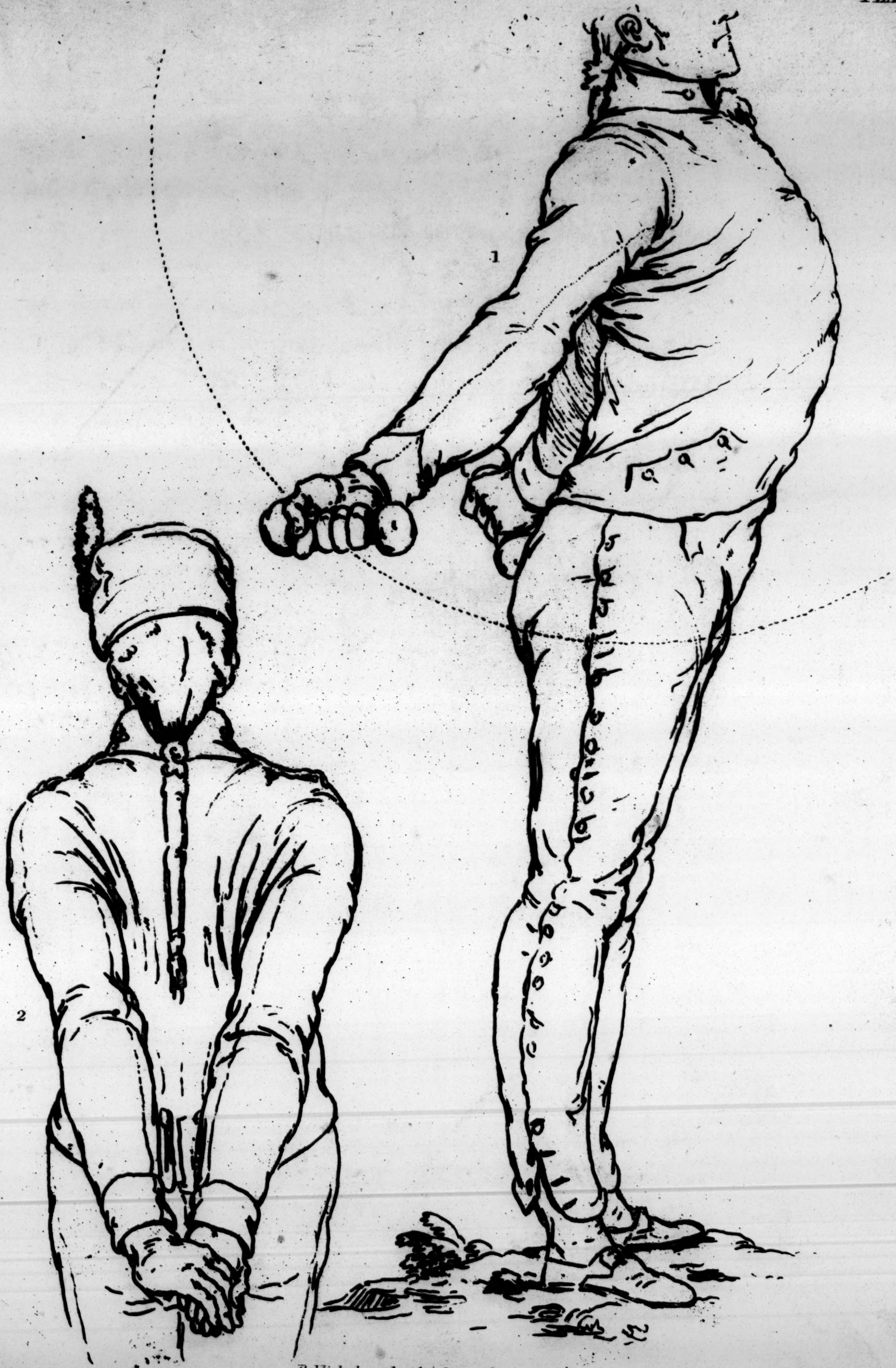


pointed for drill, and for any other duty which he may be ordered to perform, such as *orderly* in barracks, cleaning rooms, cooking for his own meals, &c. may, altogether so occupy his full time, that little leisure can be left for waste, in lounging about and drinking. The constant and regular performance of these employments, become habitual, and the foldier goes successively from one duty to another, almost instinctively. But if this order and punctuality, is broken through by confinement in his prison room, the foldier either sleeps all day, or lolls upon benches, regardless of his appearance or character; he acquires a habit of indolence, and soon loses that attention to propriety and regularity, which he had by custom obtained; his health fades away before sloth and negligence; his misconduct increases; and much care and labour must be exerted, in the attempt to reinstate him as an useful and orderly foldier. Hence, I wish to enforce, that any mode of punishment is preferable to confinement. For instance, an increase of fatigue; the shame of a turned coat; or any other of those modes of disgrace which are daily practised. In respect to punishment, I would always strongly recommend that manner, by which the burthen of *duty* should fall upon those men, whose conduct has been faulty; by which means, the fatigue of the good men will be lightened, and the award answer two purposes:—punishing the guilty, and rewarding the meritorious.

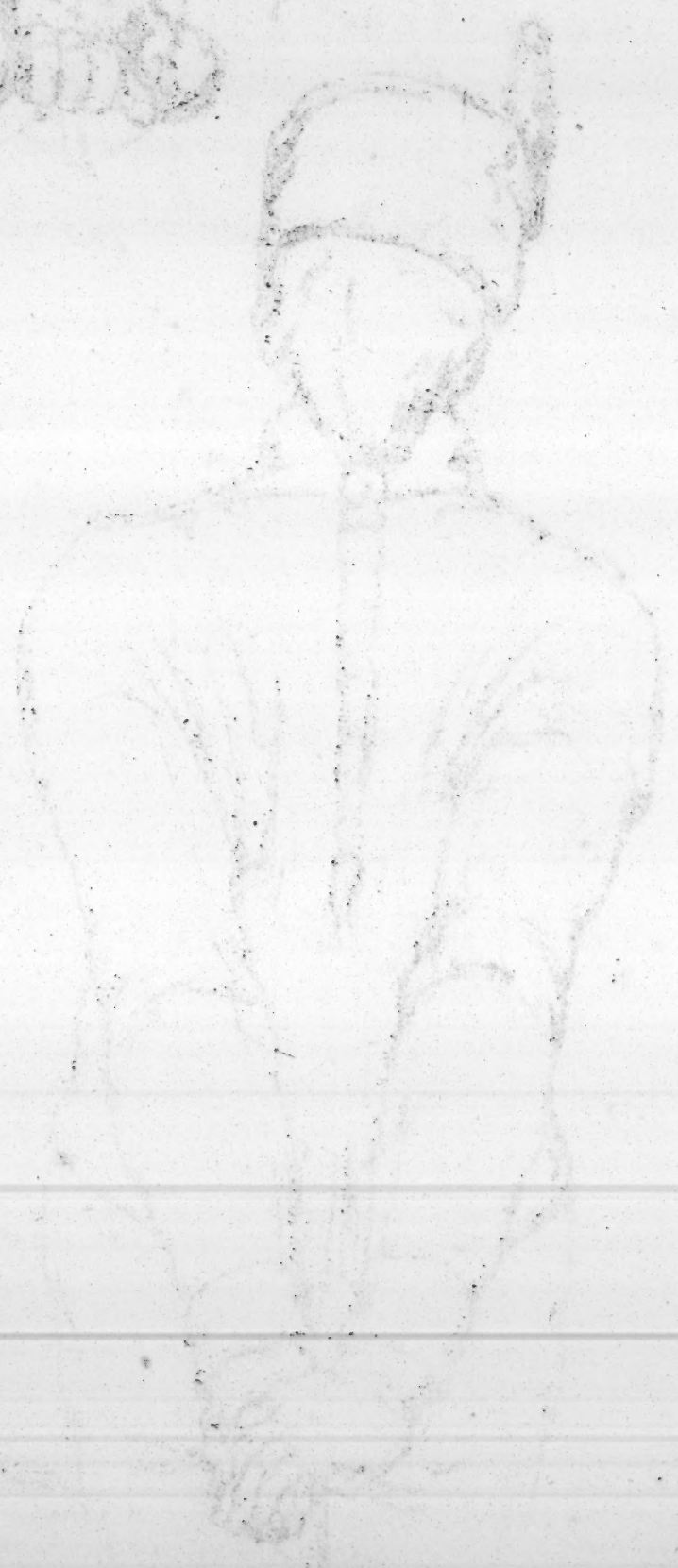
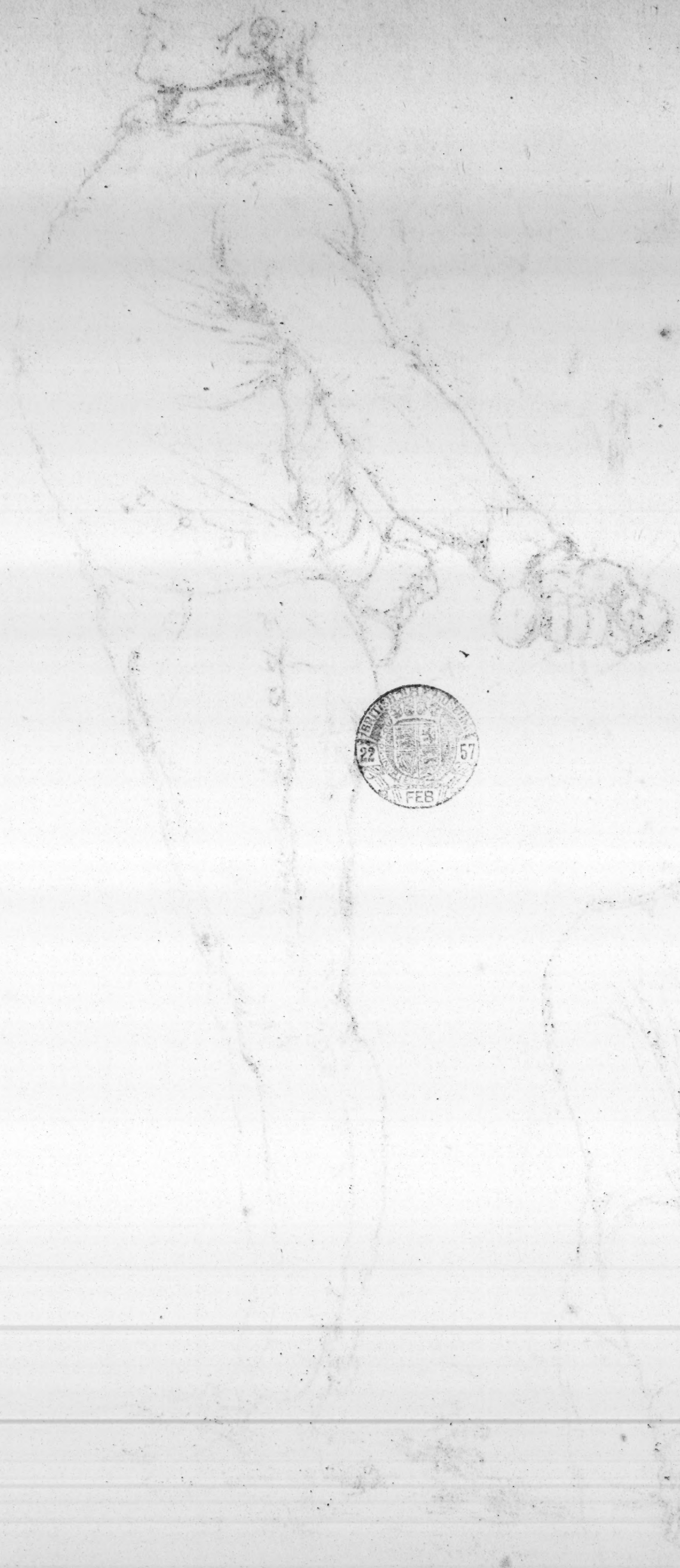
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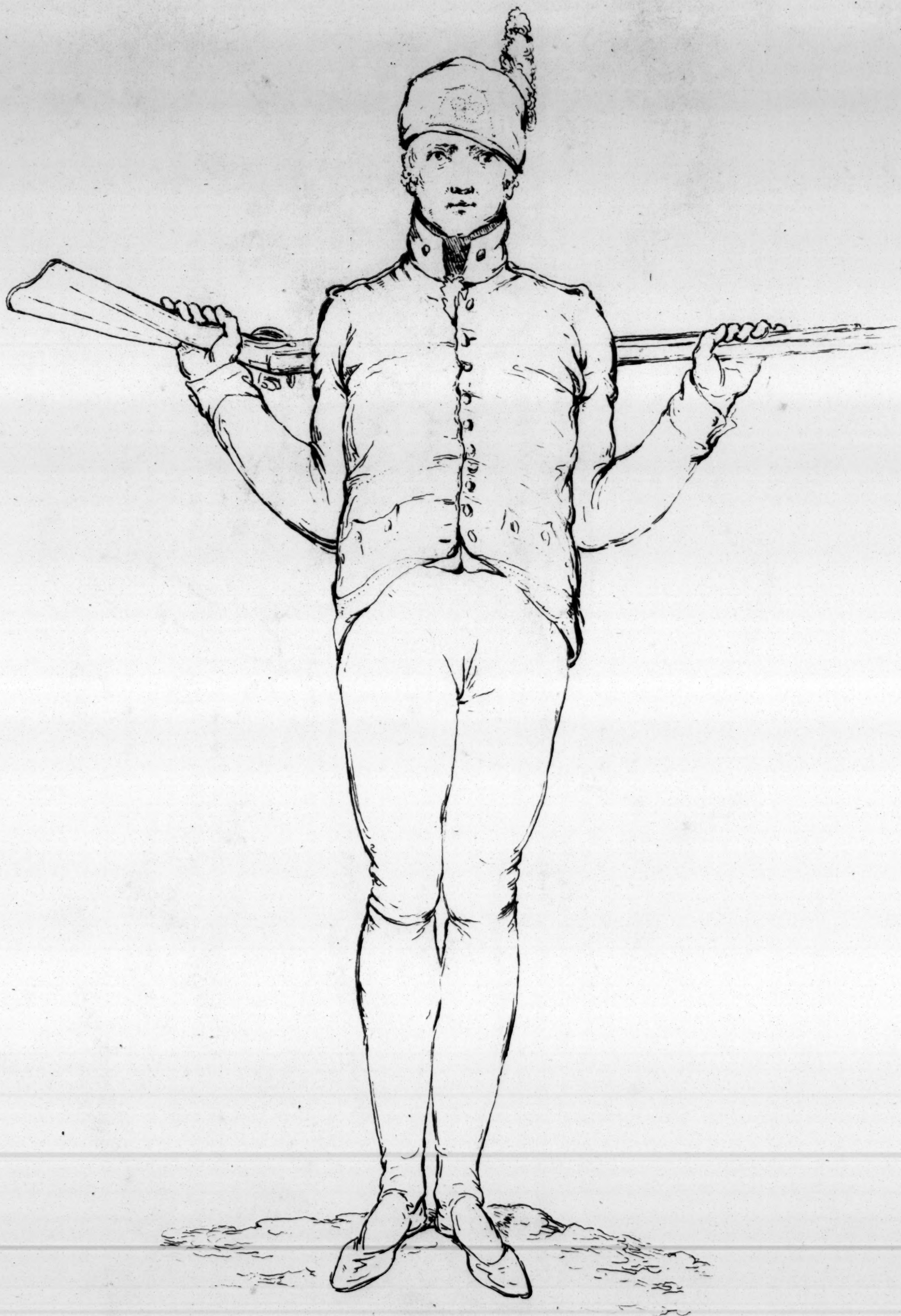








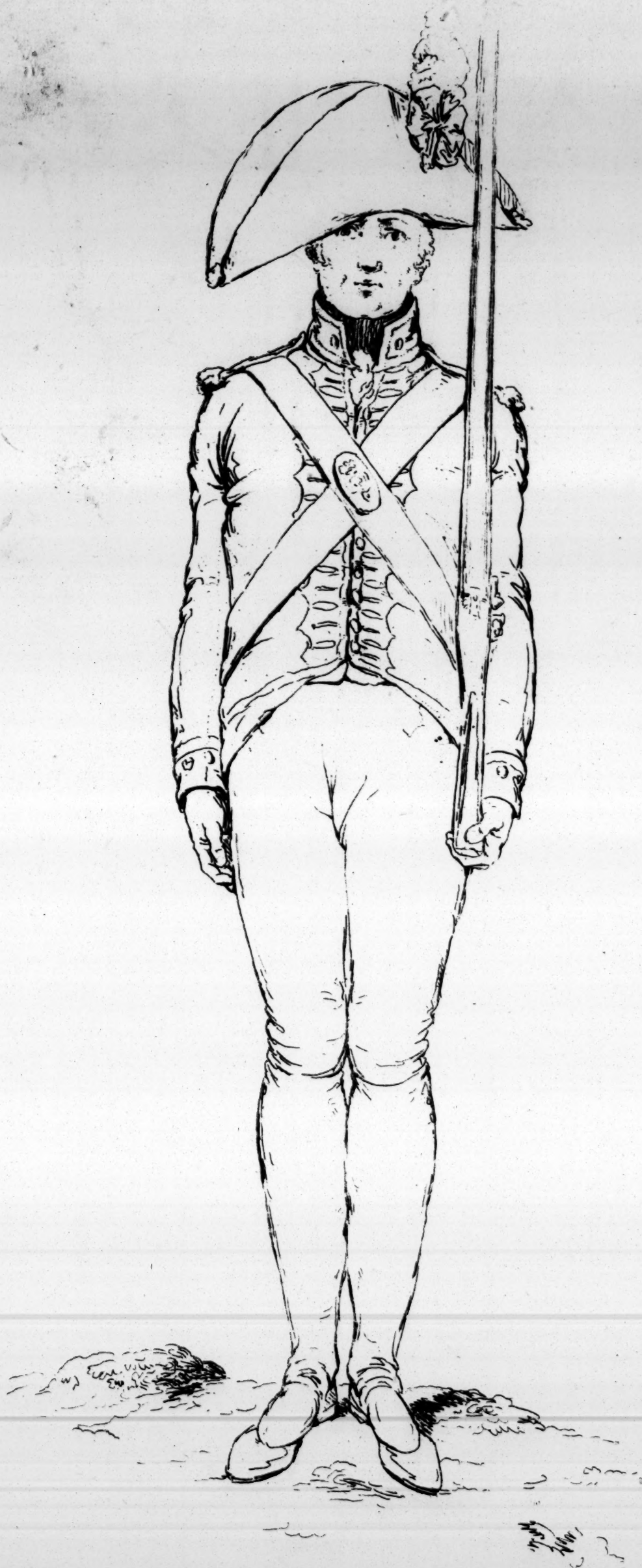
















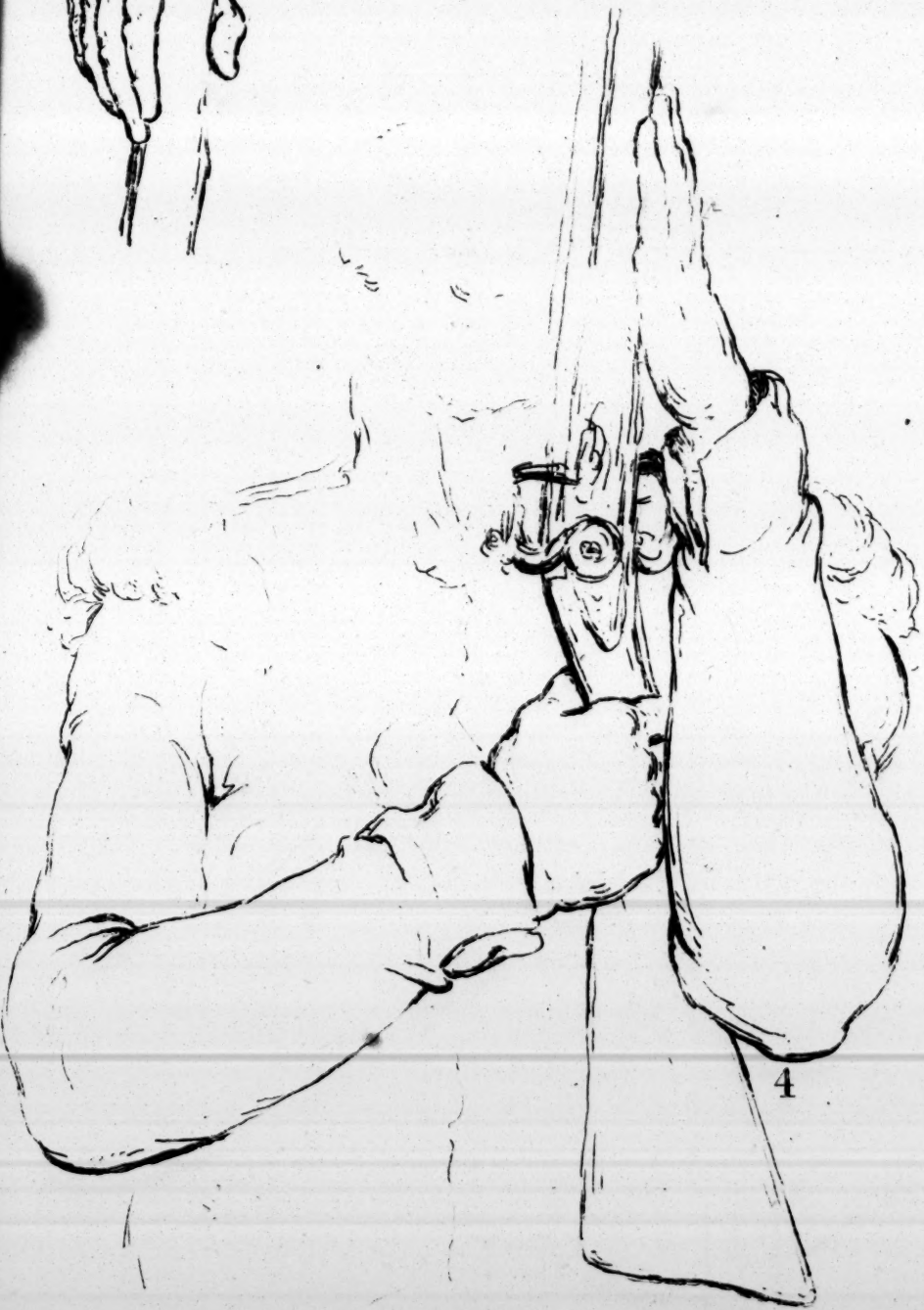
















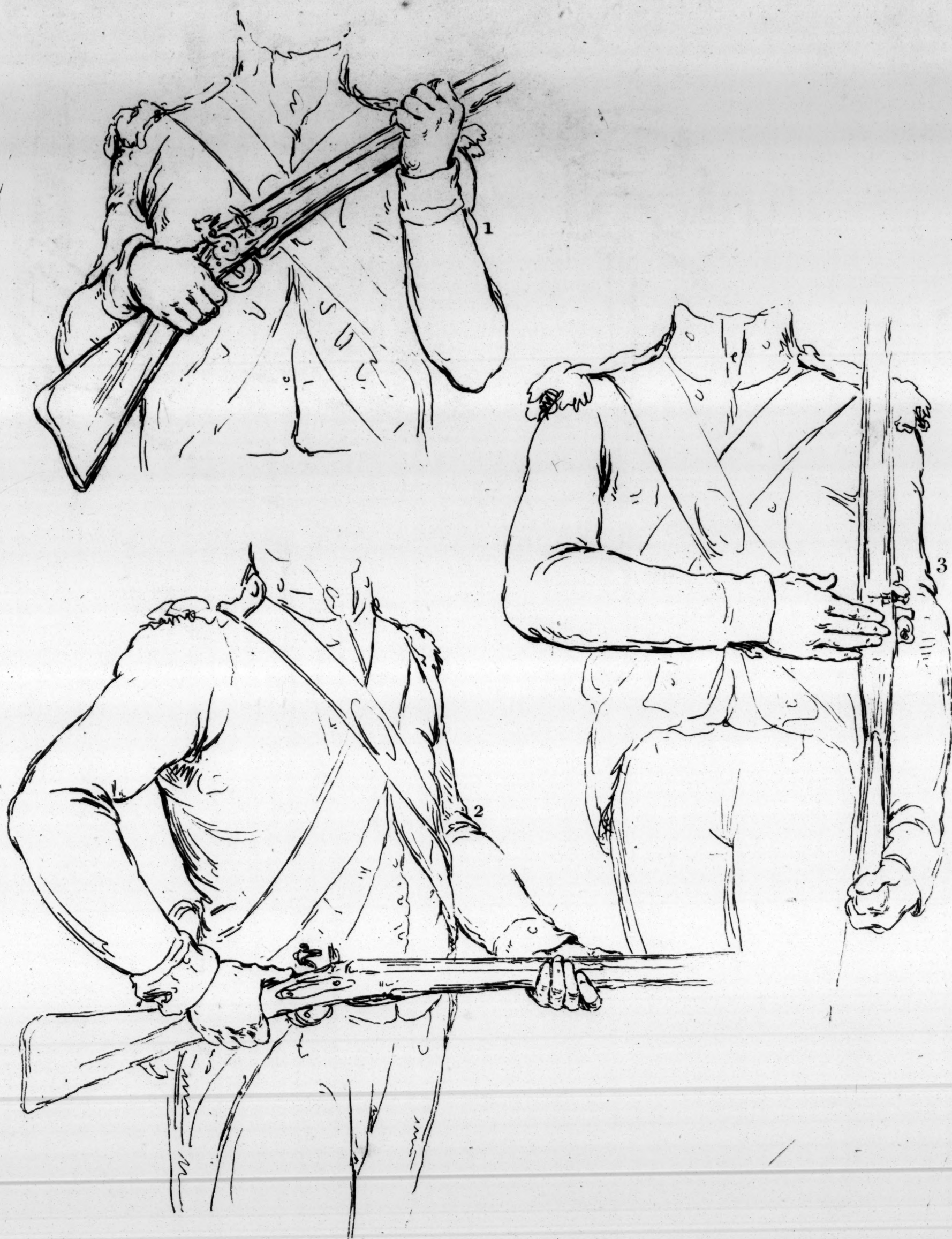








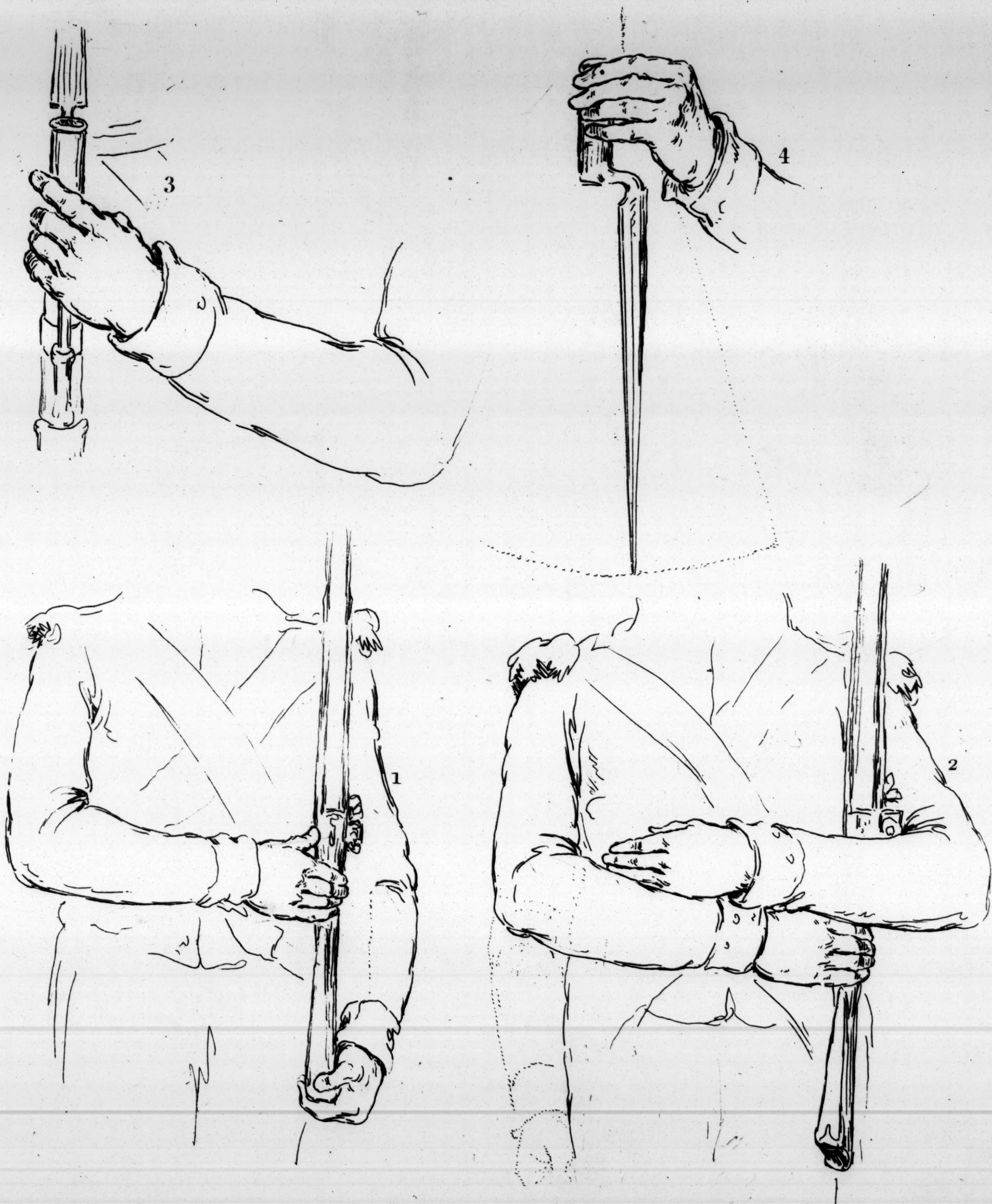








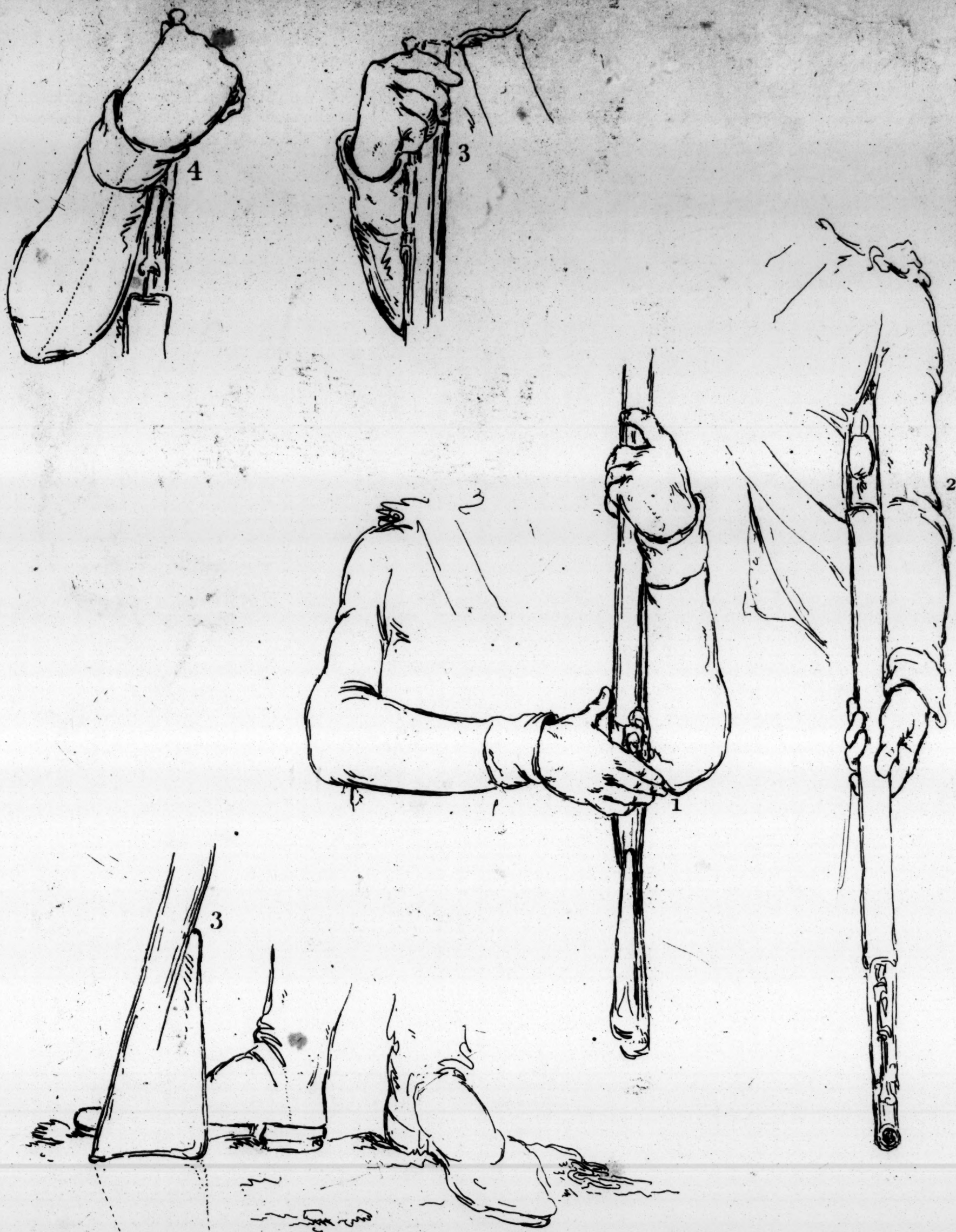


















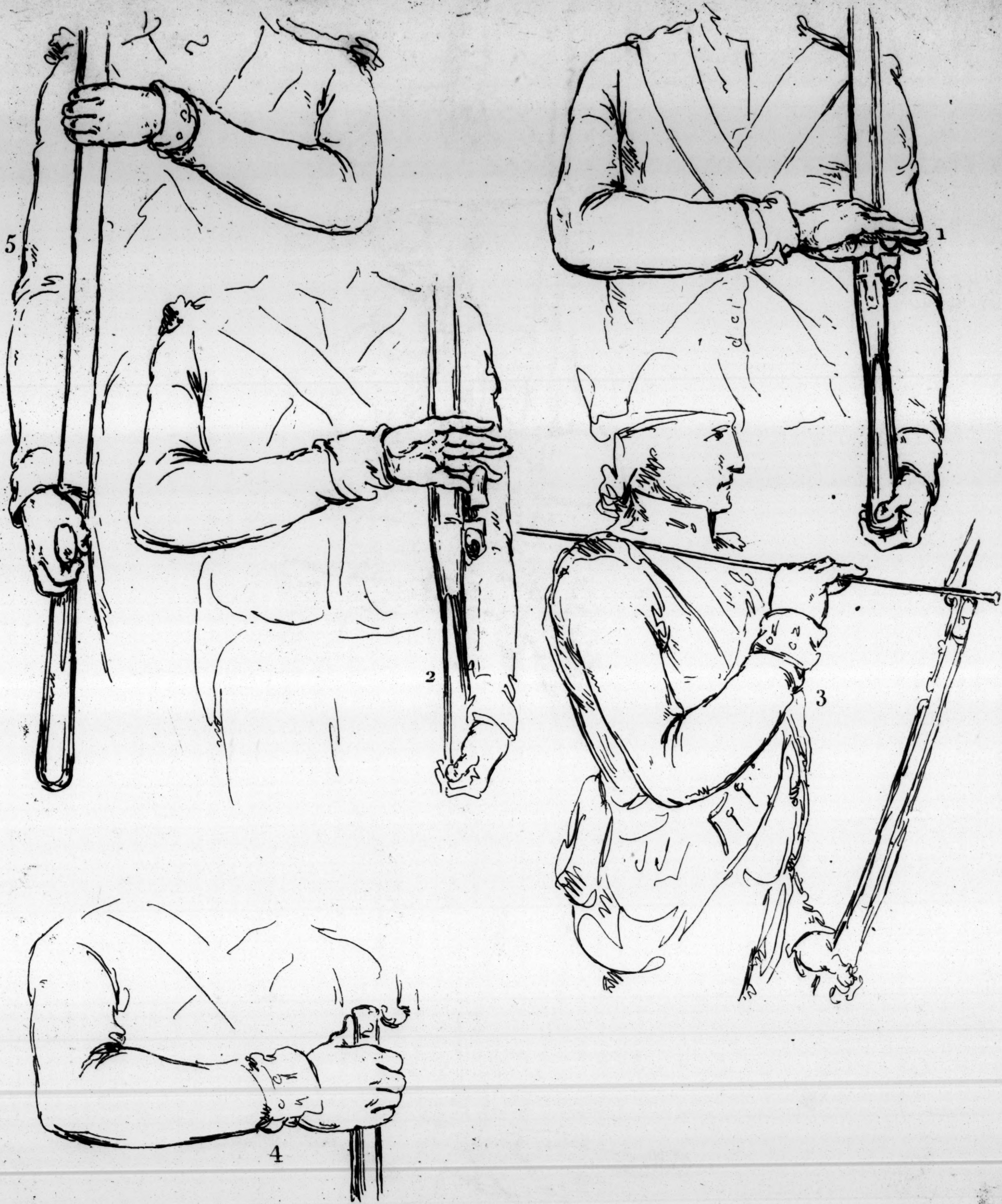




PLATE 1





















